



A Made for Trade ADL 2026: **Trade Compliance Guide**

A simple guide for installers, fabricators, and specifiers to understand the latest Approved Document L updates.

We help ensure you've got the right data and approach from the start. ADL 2026 covers the entire building envelope, but windows, doors, and glazing systems are one of the key elements used to achieve compliance.

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What's Changed?

The products haven't changed, but the way you prove compliance has.

Performance Targets

New Build: 1.6 W/m²K.

Existing Homes: 1.4 W/m²K or WER B (C for highly glazed doors)

Notional vs Limiting U-Values (Why it matters)

Limiting U-values are the minimum legal requirement

Notional U-values are used in SAP as a target benchmark, not a requirement

What this means in practice:

Replacement work: Use limiting values (simple compliance)

New build: Overall performance matters, not just window U-values

Common mistake:

Specifying notional U-values as a requirement

Result:

- More expensive glazing than necessary
- Reduced flexibility in SAP calculations
- No guarantee of compliance

Better approach:

Start with realistic product performance and let SAP balance the design

Key Difference: Proof Route

New Build: Use actual product sizes and configurations.

Existing Homes: Standard sizes still apply

Area-Weighted U-Values

Bigger elements have more impact on performance. Used mainly in new builds.

Common Pitfalls

- Using standard sizes for new builds
- Assuming replacements can be averaged
- Over-specifying unrealistic performance

Made for Trade Support

- Accurate product data
- Specification guidance
- Compliance support

Here's What Matters:

- New build projects now require actual product sizes and configurations
- Replacement work remains largely the same
- Area-weighted calculations apply in new builds only
- You can't offset poor-performing replacements

In practical terms, it's about identifying the project type early because that determines your compliance route.

Simple Takeaway:

Same products. Different proof route.

FAQ's

Common Objections & Responses:

"Can I use standard-size compliance documentation?"

Yes, but only for replacement work

"Can I still use standard sizes?"

Yes, but only for replacement work

"Can I balance out poor performance?"

Yes, use average area weighted values for new build, but not for replacements.

MFT Not just a manufacturer, but a compliance partner